

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Official Action mailed June 15, 2004.

Claim 1-16 have been amended. Claims 17-49 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement. Claims 1-16 remain in the case, and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as updated by the replacement drawings submitted with the preliminary amendment of September 10, 2001. Specifically, the Examiner has pointed out that several reference characters in the drawings are not mentioned in the description. Those instances have been corrected as follows:

FIG. 1A, reference character 112: added to the specification by amendment in the present paper of paragraph [29], line 2.

FIG. 8B, reference characters 814, 816 and 818: added to the specification by amendment in the present paper of paragraph [43], line 6, paragraph [44], line 2, and paragraph [44], line 6, respectively.

FIG. 10B, reference character 1023: added to the specification by the preliminary amendment filed on September 10, 2001, at paragraph [48], after last line.

The Examiner has also objected to FIGS. 10B, 11B, 12B and 13B as containing various errors in the lines arrows and element numbers. Applicant has submitted herewith formal replacement sheets 14, 17, 20 and 23 containing those figures, together with a Letter to the Official Draftsperson. Applicant believes that each and very one of the Examiner's objections contained in the table on page 3 of the subject Office Action has been addressed in the

replacement sheets. Applicant further submits that no new matter has been introduced in the drawing changes and specification changes.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his thorough review of the drawings, and believes that the replacement drawings overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-10 as containing informalities. Applicants have amended each of those claims to correct the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants submit that those claims are now definite.

The Present Invention

The Applicants have invented a system for real-time updating of shipping addresses by the address owners, and real-time retrieval of those addresses by shippers of goods. In a simple embodiment of the invention, a consumer orders a widget from an Internet merchant, and, in place of a shipping address in the ordering form, the consumer places a network pointer pointing to an address updating service according to the invention. When a shipper is ready to deliver the widget, the shipper uses the pointer to find a network location where a current address is found where the widget can be shipped. The consumer has the ability to enter multiple addresses and corresponding time periods when the consumer will be at those addresses.

An exemplary embodiment of the invention is claimed in amended claim 1, which is directed to a system for entering shipping address data by an shipping address owner and for providing real-time shipping address information. That system includes a shipping address directory system server, and computer-readable storage media accessible to the server. The

storage media contains an online shipping address directory composed of at least one shipping address entry. The shipping address entry contains a name of a shipping address owner, a shipping address for the shipping address owner, a beginning date for the shipping address, and an ending date for the shipping address.

The system also includes computer-readable storage media containing instructions executable by the server, whereby the shipping address and the beginning date and the ending date for the shipping address may be changed by the shipping address owner to reflect the shipping address for the shipping address owner on a specific date.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the technological components of the system and what is being done to them. The claimed system now includes an address directory system server, with computer readable storage media containing the online address directory and media containing executable instructions for changing an address.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is now directed to statutory subject matter, and that claims 2-16, which depend from claim 1 and incorporate its limitations, also meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088 to Li et al. ("Li").

Li discloses a system for automatically configuring a consumer network access device after the consumer has purchased the device. The system eliminates the need for configuring the device at the factory. Instead, the consumer connects the device to the Internet and enters an identification number, and the device automatically downloads configuration data. (See the Abstract.)

Li in no way deals with physical or shipping addresses. For example, there is no discussion of shipping the device itself to the consumer by the manufacturer or distributor. The discussion of “addresses” pointed out by the Examiner at col. 2, lines 5-18 of Li is a discussion of the format of an IP (Internet Protocol) address. IP addresses are not shipping addresses and cannot be used by shippers as shipping addresses can.

It should be further noted that the Examiner has, in discussing claim 10, alleged that the word “carriers” in Li (col. 1, line 42) refers to “shippers.” In the context of the cited passage, the word “carriers” appears as follow:

The Internet may be described in a very simplistic sense as follows. There are six major global telecommunications *carriers* each of which maintains a global telecommunications network. Examples of these global *carriers* are companies such as SPRINT or MCI. These global *carriers* have links between each of their networks to allow communication between the networks. Companies termed Internet service providers (ISPs) lease access to these global networks from one of the global *carriers* and provide this access to their customers such as businesses, universities and individuals.

Li, col. 1, lines 39-49 (emphasis added). Clearly, the carriers discussed in Li have nothing to do with shipping. Instead, they are “telecommunications carriers” that “carry” communications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the term "carrier" as used in Li and the general discussion cited by the Examiner having nothing to do with shipping or shippers.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." M.P.E.P. § 2131 (quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Li because Li does not disclose several of the elements claimed in claim 1. First, Applicants submit that Li does not disclose an online shipping address directory, a shipping address entry, a shipping address owner or a shipping address, all as required by amended claim 1. Instead, as noted above, Li discloses, at most, IP addresses, and not shipping addresses.

Additionally, applicants respectfully submit that Li does not disclose that the beginning and ending dates may be changed by the address owner to reflect the owner's address on a specific date. The Examiner points to Li at col. 21, lines 55-67 as disclosing that feature. That passage of Li, however, is a discussion of commands available for configuring a Web mirroring function. A Web mirror is a Web site or set of files on a computer server that has been copied to another computer server so that the site or files are available from more than one place. The command apparently referred to by the Examiner (Li, col. 21, line 63) is a command for enabling or disabling a Web mirror update function, and, if enabled, for specifying the time of the update. Updating a Web mirror, as is done in Li, is unrelated to changing an address, as claimed in claim 1.

Further, claim 1 requires that the address be changed by the address owner. The Examiner points to no passage of Li suggesting such a feature, and Applicants respectfully submit that no such suggestion exists in Li.

Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is novel and non-obvious. Applicants further submit that claims 2-16, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, are patentable for the same reasons.

As to claim 2, the Examiner cites Li at col. 2, lines 5-18 as disclosing the “unique identifier” of claim 2. As noted above, that passage discusses IP addresses. The Examiner has identified the IP address of Li as anticipating both the address and the unique identifier of the claims. Claim 2, however, requires obtaining an “address” by entering a “unique identifier.” The two elements cannot, therefore, both be anticipated by the IP address of Li. In other words, it would not make sense to interpret claim 2 as requiring a person to obtain an IP address by entering the IP address.

Furthermore, claim 2 requires a query that returns an answer providing the address. The Examiner has identified no feature of Li that teaches or suggests that element of claim 2.

Those additional features claimed in claim 2 provide a mechanism for a shipper to securely determine a shipping address for an address owner when the shipper is ready to ship.

Applicants therefore assert that claim 2, and claims 3-16, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 2, are patentable for those additional reasons.

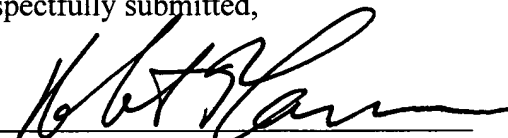
Conclusion

Applicants therefore respectfully assert that all the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present case, the Examiner should not hesitate in contacting the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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